

IN THE NEWS

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World News

As much of the world continues to focus on the Middle East, the Asian risks continue to grow. For example, North Korea tested a new ejection system for submarine launched missiles [1]. What's more, North Korea claimed to have launched a ballistic missile from a submarine [2].

Typical reports of Chinese nuclear warheads use a number of 250; but China's nuclear expansion is not transparent [3]. This comes as China is replacing its long range single warhead nuclear missiles with multiple warhead enhancements [4]. What's more, in a shocking revelation, in violation of the 1985 US-China accord, the communist giant has diverted civilian nuclear technology to its submarine program [5].

Meanwhile, in the Middle-East, Iran claimed it would release a seized Marshal Islands-flagged cargo vessel only after a fine was paid [6]. Since the ship was seized in open water; is this not a ransom payment? Iran did release the ship but there was no word on the ransom payment [7]. Following this, one report indicated Iranian ships shot at Singapore-flagged vessel [8].

In Syria, the situation is looking bad for the current president al-Assad. For instance, the Syrian leader acknowledged battlefield setbacks [9]. What's more, the IS launched attacks against the Syrian city of Deir Exxor, leaving at least 34 dead during a 24-hour period [10]. Another report indicates IS fighters entered the history rich town of Palmyra near ancient ruins [11]. There is concern that IS will destroy the historical ruins [12].

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2. Kim, Jack, Reuters, *North Korea boasts of firing ballistic missile from submarine*, May 9, 2015.
3. The Japan Times, *Wary of China, Japan urges nuclear weapons info transparency*, April 28, 2015.
4. Sanger, David E., and Broad, William J., New York Times, *China Making Some Missiles More Powerful*, May 16, 2015.
5. Gertz, Bill, Washington Free Beacon, *Senators Say China Diverted U.S. Nuclear Technology to Submarines in Violation of '85 Accord*, May 13, 2015.

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Special points of interest:

- Fifth bank shuttered
- Two terrorists killed in Texas
- Moody's downgrades Chicago credit to junk status

Security

One study indicates, criminal attacks resulting in healthcare breaches has replaced lost devices as the leading exploit [1]. Meanwhile, threats to medical devices are again in the news. For instance, vulnerabilities were disclosed with the Hospira LifeCAre PCA Infusion System [2]. Software patching of vul-

nerable software continues. During this reporting period, Microsoft released patches to correct 30 security bugs [3]. Firefox issued patches to correct 38 bugs [4]. Finally, Adobe fixed a total of 54 security bugs [5]. Meanwhile, bad actors continue to exploit tax returns. Case in point, in Alabama a woman was charged with

filing 3,000 bogus returns netting \$7.5 million [6].

When we consider public transportation, a question is could bad actors hack into the controlling software? For instance, one report indicates a security researcher aboard a commercial aircraft, hacked

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Security

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into a commercial entertainment service, then overwrote code on the airplanes thrust management computer, resulting in the plane briefly flying sideways [7].

1. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *Study: Root cause of health care breaches shifts to criminal attacks*, May 7, 2015.
2. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *DHS adds more bug disclosures to Hospira drug pump alert, FDA joins call*, May 14, 2015.
3. Carman, Ashley, SC Magazine, *Microsoft patches 30 bugs with 13 bulletins on Patch Tuesday*, May 12, 2015.
4. Greenberg, Adam, SC Magazine, *Firefox 38 fixes a number of vulnerabilities, several deemed critical*, May 12, 2015.
5. Walker, Danielle, SC Magazine, *Adobe plugs critical bugs in Reader, Acrobat and Flash Player*, May 12, 2015.
6. DiGangi, Christine, Money, *Woman Accused of*

Filing 3,000 False Tax Returns in \$7.5 Million Scheme, May 14, 2015.

7. Zetter, Kim, Wired, *Feds Say That Banned Researcher Commandeered a Plane*, May 15, 2015.

*The safety of the republic
being the supreme law,
and Texas having offered
us the key to the safety of
our country from all
foreign intrigues and
diplomacy, I say accept the
key... and bolt the door at
once.—Andrew Jackson*

(Continued from page 1)

6. Vahdat, Amir, AP, *Iran says it will release seized Maersk ship after fine paid*, May 6, 2015.
7. Dorell, Oren, USA Today, *Iran releases seized Marshall Islands-flagged ship*, May 7, 2015.
8. Reuters/CNN, *Iranian boats fire shots at Singapore-flagged vessel in Gulf*, May 14, 2015.
9. Naylor, Hugh, Washington Post, *Bashar al-Assad acknowledges setbacks on the battlefield*, May 6, 2015.
10. AFP, *Dozens killed in IS assault on east Syrian city*, May 8, 2015.
11. AP, *IS group enters Syrian town of Palmyra, nears ancient ruins*, May 16, 2015.
12. LaCasse, Alexander, Christian Science Monitor, *Will ISIS destroy Palmyra, 'the bride of the desert'?*, May 16, 2015.

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10. AFP, *Dozens killed in IS assault on east Syrian city*, May 8, 2015.
11. AP, *IS group enters Syrian town of Palmyra, nears ancient ruins*, May 16, 2015.
12. LaCasse, Alexander, Christian Science Monitor, *Will ISIS destroy Palmyra, 'the bride of the desert'?*, May 16, 2015.

Terrorism

Terrorism continues to make its presence within the US. For instance, two gunmen were killed after they opened fire on an Mohammed art contest in Texas [1]. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack [2].

The Texas incident highlights the growing threat to the US from the IS. What's more, the FBI director indicated that hundreds, perhaps thousands, inside the US were trying to be recruited by IS operatives communicating from overseas [3].

In Afghanistan, the Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack on a popular guesthouse that left 14 people dead, including one American [4]. Then there was a suicide

attack at Kabal airport that left at least 3 dead [5]. In neighboring Karachi, Pakistan; IS terrorists attacked a bus carrying Ismaili Muslims leaving 45 dead [6].

Meanwhile, the situation in Iraq continues in crisis mode. For example, after months of fighting in the city of Ramadi, the Iraq government is sending reinforcement to the besieged city [7].

1. Aglionby, John, Financial Times, *Gunmen killed at Mohammed art show in Texas*, May 4, 2015.
2. McSpadden, Kevin, Time, *ISIS Claims Responsibility for Muhammad Cartoon 'Contest' Shooting*, May 5, 2015.
3. Johnson, Kevin, USA Today, *FBI director says*

Islamic State influence growing in U.S., May 7, 2015.

4. Craig, Tim, Washington Post, *Taliban claims Kabul guesthouse raid that killed 14, including American*, May 14, 2015.
5. Fox News, *3 dead after Taliban suicide attack at Kabul airport*, May 17, 2015.
6. Hussain, Shaiq, and Craig, Tim, Washington Post, *Gunmen storm crowded bus in Karachi, killing more than 40, including American*, May 13, 2015.
7. BBC News, *Islamic State crisis: Iraq sends troops to Ramadi*, May 16, 2015.

In plain Texas talk, it's 'do the right thing'—Ross Perot



Economy

Once again, the American worker is subjected to unfair trade practices. Case in point, according to the Commerce Department, the trade deficit jumped 43.1 percent to \$51.4 billion in March [1]. More importantly, the trade deficit with China reported was a record \$37.8 billion representing 74% of the total deficit [2]. As long as unfair trade practices remain, the US economy will remain at risk. To see how China's economy has advanced, the communist giant now imports more oil than does the US [3].

To better understand the consequences; the table below extracted from the Bureau of Labor statistics, depicts over 93 million Americans were no longer in the workforce [4]. However, for March, the Labor Department was reporting a 5.5% unemployment rate representing about 8.6 million out of work [5]. Then for April, the rate reported fell to 5.4% [6]. When you take away 93 million from the numerator, leaving only 8.6 million, you get a nice sounding 5.4% unemployment rate. However, obfuscated statistics cannot hide the damage done by unfair trade practices forever.

According to the Labor Department, the number of first time unemployment claims for the week ending May 2 was 265,000 [7]. Then, for the ended May 9, the number was 264,000 [8].

The financial news for the windy city is not good. Moody's downgraded Chicago's credit level to "Ba1" (junk status); down from "Baa2" [9].

Meanwhile, regulators resumed closing banks. For instance, the Edgebrook Bank of Chicago became the fifth financial institution shuttered this year [10].

1. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *U.S. trade data points to first-quarter economic contraction*, May 5, 2015.
2. Matthews, Chris, Fortune, *U.S. trade deficit with China reaches all-time high*, May 5, 2015.
3. Pandey, Avaneesh, International Business Times, *China's Crude Oil Imports Surpass Those Of US In April*, May 11, 2015.
4. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>, April 3, 2015.
5. Nyitray, Brent, Yahoo Finance, *The March 2015*

Unemployment Rate holds Steady at 5.5%, April 16, 2015.

6. Rugaber, Christopher S., AP, *US Economy Rebounding With Solid if Unspectacular Job Gains*, May 8, 2015.
7. Mutikani, Lucia, Reuters, *Jobless claims hold near 15-year low*, May 7, 2015.
8. Davidson, Kate, Wall Street Journal, *U.S. Jobless Claims Fall to 264,000, Remain Near Historic Lows*, May 14, 2015.
9. Rosenfeld, Everett, CNBC, *Moody's downgrades Chicago debt to 'junk' with negative outlook*, May 12, 2015.
10. AP, *US regulators close small Chicago bank*, May 8, 2015.

Texas has yet to learn
submission to any
oppression, come from
what source it may—Sam
Houston

	Total		Men		Women	
	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Total not in the labor force	91,630	93,762	36,809	37,509	54,822	56,253